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IAC-D-74/2

3 November 1954

Second Annual Progress Report to the IAC

of the Scientific Estimates Committee

September 1953 - August 1954

I. AUTHORITY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Scientific Estimates Committee was established on 14 August 1952 by DCID 3/4, pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 3 and the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Survey Existing Arrangements Relating to Production of Scientific and Technical Intelligence. (IAC-M-79, 14 August 1952).

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

DCID 3/4 provides that the permanent membership of the SEC shall consist of representatives from CIA; the Joint Staff; the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force; and the Atomic Energy Commission. The AEC member has not participated in the activities of the SEC and has indicated that such participation would be limited to matters of direct interest to the AEC. (Note: Atomic energy intelligence was assigned to the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee by DCID 3/4).

The SEC has no permanent subcommittee structure; however, it employs ad hoc subcommittees, when needed, to discuss or report upon particular subjects under consideration. Experience to date indicates no reason for changing the SEC organization and procedures.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

DCID 3/4 assigns the SEC three responsibilities, and in addition recommends "that the SEC concentrate on the integration of intelligence opinion (other than that for which JAEIC is responsible) as and when required for the purposes of national intelligence, and only incidentally assist in the coordination of production of other intelligence in scientific and technical fields."

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The accomplishments of the SEC under each of its responsibilities are summarized below:

A. The SEC shall "integrate scientific and technical intelligence, as and when required, for the production of national intelligence."

1. The SEC integrated scientific and technical contributions to nine National Intelligence Estimates. A tabulation of these contributions is at Tab A.

B. The SEC shall "coordinate the production of Chapter VII of the NIS."

1. The SEC coordinated the production of 26 Sections of Chapter VII and one Section of Chapter I of the NIS. A tabulation of these contributions is at Tab B.

2. The SEC proposed a two-year program (through FY-1956) for production of NIS Chapter VII and NIS Section 17, which the NIS Committee tentatively approved. This advanced programming provides time for collection in response to specific collection requirements.

3. The SEC prepared for NIS Committee consideration, at the latter's request, a forecast of areas requiring scientific intelligence coverage in the NIS.

4. The SEC is reviewing the organization and coverage of NIS Chapter VII.

C. The SEC shall "stimulate and guide interagency liaison and such working-level conferences as may be appropriate."

1. The SEC maintained surveillance of the status of biological warfare intelligence and used the JTIS BW Working Group (with its CIA liaison representative) to ensure the integration of CIA's activities in the basic sciences with those of the Services in their area of responsibility.

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2. The SEC agreed that detailed studies produced by member agencies in support of scientific and technical contributions to National Intelligence Estimates should be disseminated to SEC members. Member agencies have initiated such dissemination.

3. The SEC served as a liaison mechanism to coordinate requests for studies and briefings by member agencies.

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IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

A. The SEC produced one SEC estimate, SEC 2-54, "Soviet Biological Warfare Capabilities through 1960," at the direction of the IAC (IAC-D-80, as approved in IAC-M-138).

B. At the further direction of the IAC, the SEC undertook to survey critical deficiencies in biological warfare intelligence and to recommend means for eliminating the deficiencies (IAC-D-80, as approved in IAC-M-138). The study is scheduled for submission to the IAC in the fourth quarter of 1954.

C. The SEC initiated coordinated all-source research by member agencies on an agreed list of potential Soviet BW installations.

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D. The SEC undertook a survey to determine deficiencies in meteorological intelligence on the Soviet Bloc and to recommend means for their elimination.

E. The SEC agreed that a definite need exists for a study of "Development and Utilization of Science in the USSR," an uncompleted project of the former Scientific Intelligence Committee. The SEC will undertake the project at the earliest date permitted by the workload in member agencies.

F. The SEC produced its first "Annual Report of the Status of Scientific and Technical Intelligence Production Projects" and two quarterly supplements. The purpose of the report, which covers both internal and external research projects of member agencies on a worldwide basis, is to assist member agencies in planning production of scientific and technical intelligence and in reducing duplication of effort.

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G. The SEC sponsored a series of twelve tours of CIA facilities and services for the production of scientific and technical intelligence.

H. At the request of JTIS, the SEC initiated the necessary investigations to determine

The project will be completed in the fourth quarter of 1954.

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V. OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR

The SEC feels that sound progress was made during its second year of existence in improving the scope and quality of the scientific intelligence with which it concerned itself. In accordance with DCID 3/4, it will continue to concentrate its attention on the integration of intelligence opinion to improve the scientific and technical contributions to national intelligence. To accomplish this objective, the SEC will make a concerted effort during the coming year to:

A. Conduct, both under IAC direction and at its own initiative, substantive surveys in various fields of scientific and technical intelligence for the purpose of identifying critical deficiencies related to consumer requirements and recommending means for their elimination.

B. Conduct post-mortems of the scientific and technical portions of certain National Intelligence Estimates, particularly those which are revised periodically.

C. Undertake a comprehensive estimate of the development and utilization of science in the USSR.

D. Improve collection of scientific and technical intelligence information through appropriate guidance in certain fields of common concern to the community.

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E. Assist member agencies in planning production of scientific and technical intelligence and in reducing duplication of research effort through continued production of an SEC annual report, with quarterly supplements, of the status of scientific and technical intelligence production projects in member agencies.

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